

Evaluating State Water Monitoring and Assessment Programs

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Recent Critiques of Water Monitoring Programs

Recent reports from GAO, National Academy of Science, National Academy of Public Administration, and others find monitoring inadequate:

- EPA and States cannot make statistically valid statements about U.S. water quality
- States lack data needed to make decisions
 - Set standards
 - Determine protection and cleanup goals
 - Evaluate effectiveness of permits, management measures

Monitoring Challenges

- Many state priorities unmet
- Resource needs are large
 - President's Budget request for \$17 million in state grants cites a gap of \$100-150 million per year for state monitoring programs
- Technical issues are complex

Vision for the Future

- We have adequate monitoring data to assess water quality and make sound management decisions
- Actions we take to protect and restore water quality maximize benefits and minimize costs

Actions for Achieving the Vision

- Strengthen state, tribal & interstate monitoring
- Encourage integrated use of multiple monitoring tools
- Expand accessibility and use of data
- Promote enhanced partnerships